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OGC 8-0331

AWD/FME

13 FEB 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: National Security Agency Legislation

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. At a meeting on another subject at The White House on 12 February, I heard Mr. Roger W. Jones, Assistant Director for Legislative Reference, Bureau of the Budget, tell General Goodpaster that he would like to present ideas in connection with the proposed legislation to establish the National Security Agency as an agency. I told Mr. Jones I had recently talked to General Samford and his counsel on this matter, and Mr. Jones asked me to join in his talk with General Goodpaster.
3. Mr. Jones said he was opposed to the general policy of the bill which established the National Security Agency as an agency within the Department of Defense. General Goodpaster at first saw no harm in this but when reminded of the present consideration of possible changes in organization and the whole interrelationship of the intelligence agencies he agreed that the formalization of the National Security Agency by statute would be inappropriate and unwise. Mr. Jones said he did believe that the National Security Agency needed certain administrative assistance. He believed it should have the provision it requested to exempt it from certain Civil Service controls. I was able to explain to General Goodpaster what the difficulties were and say that they were similar to ours and we, therefore, felt this provision would strengthen the National Security Agency's administration and security. Mr. Jones also was in favor of requesting authorization

to employ retired officers who had had communications intelligence training and experience. General Goodpaster was at first a little reluctant but on having the situation explained and the limitations on numbers agreed to he approved this provision also. Mr. Jones disapproved the requested authorization for destruction of records under certain circumstances and General Goodpaster concurred. I said we had made satisfactory security arrangements with the Archivist and Mr. Jones thought the National Security Agency could do the same.

4. On the basis of this discussion, I believe only these limited administrative authorities for the National Security Agency will be put before the Congress this year.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

The attached memorandum sets forth a chance discussion I had with Mr. Roger Jones, Bureau of the Budget, and General Goodpaster on the proposed legislation for the National Security Agency. I believe the decisions reached are quite satisfactory from our point of view.



AWD/TH LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

13 FEB 1958

(DATE)